

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Contact Information:

Administrator: Heather Ford

Email: dcakids@telus.net

Teacher: Kristine Scherpenisse

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First Day Details: We have staggered entry!

FIRST day of school will be on Wednesday, Sept. 4th or Thursday, Sept. 5th. **Your SECOND day of school will be on Friday, Sept. 6th.**

Our program runs from 8:50 -11:40 am. Mrs. Scherpenisse and our Teacher's Assistant, Ms. Vicky, will greet our new friends in the lobby promptly at 8:50 am and bring them back to the lobby at 11:40 am.

Your child will need: a backpack with a small nut-free snack, water bottle and indoor shoes. Coats and outdoor shoes will be hung up and left outside the classroom, with backpacks being brought inside.

Parent Communication:

To make our learning visible – and to **keep you informed** about classroom goings-on, we will be using a program called Remind. Kindergarten will be able to schedule and send messages via text or email – your choice – with all personal contact information staying private.

Mrs. Scherpenisse will be providing more information regarding this program and answering any questions you have when she does the home visits or during the first days of school.

We Need Your Help!

As a community kindergarten, having HELP from our dedicated parents makes all the difference!

We understand that families are BUSY and it's not always feasible for you to spend quality time with us in the classroom. Help comes in a variety of forms! – Take a look:

Parent Council: Thankfully, we have filled all the parent council positions for the upcoming school year. Typically, the parent council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. This is where the magic happens, decisions are made about field trips and fundraisers. Please feel free to join us if you would like to learn about more ways to help!

Scheduled Visits: If you have some flexibility in your schedule, but need to plan for it in advance, consider – Field Trip Volunteers - let us know you're interested, we can flag these for you so you don't miss out on the fun!

Mystery Reader Mondays – a program that was started last school year will be continuing this year beginning in November. More information will be provided in October. Stay tuned!

From Home: maybe the best way for you to get involved, is from behind the scenes! This could look like – organizing scholastic orders, making playdough, or doing odd jobs like cutting and copying.

If you are looking to volunteer REGULARLY – yes please! Let's chat about what that could look like!

Volunteering typically starts in October, giving students time to settle into the classroom.

Need to Knows:

We want to see you at school! Regular attendance is important. Sick with a fever? Please stay home. We would rather see you healthy! *Note: staff do not administer medicine.*

If your child will be away, please contact the school (you can easily text the classroom cell) no later than 15 minutes prior to class. Save us from wondering where our friends are!

Arrive no more than 5 minutes before class, and arrange for prompt pick up after class time. (We run from 8:50 – 11:40 am). Going home with someone new? Please let me know ahead of time.

Children will have snack following Center Time. Strive to pack mess-free and nut-free snacks. For Out-Of-School-Care children, pack a separate snack from the lunch they will eat downstairs.

No need to dress-to-impress! We like to have fun and get messy. Come dressed in appropriate clothes for play (this includes outdoor play – *as long as the temperature is above -15 C*).

Label EVERYTHING! Did you know we participate in a **Mabel's Label's** fundraiser? It is a great way to raise funds for our kindergarten every time you order. Check out their website, www.mabelslabels.com and select Dalhousie Community Kindergarten after selecting the "Support a Fundraiser" button on the right hand side.

We love field trips! In fact, our first trip will be to Safety City on Wednesday, September 25. Information and consent forms will be sent home to be signed approximately one week PRIOR to any outings. Some field trips require a nominal fee. Volunteers are always needed!

Celebrating a birthday? Everyone deserves to be celebrated! We will happily acknowledge your child's birthday. If you wish to send in a birthday snack for the class just email Mrs. Scherpenisse a couple of days before. If your child has a summer birthday we will be acknowledging them in June. *Note: If you will be handing out invitations, please let me help you be discrete.*

My door is open! I am available after class to touch base and can be easily reached by email.

Parent-teacher interviews are held in November and March.

Play-based Learning: Dalhousie Community Kindergarten is a play-based program!

We use “play” as the vehicle by which we broaden perspectives, deepen understanding and propel learning forward! Our students play an active role in constructing our learning environment – their needs and interests will help dictate the space and the activities that will be found.

Play-based learning is... hands-on, exploratory, intentional, purposeful!

Children who learn through play aren't learning through rote memorization (which, naturally, has its own time and place).

In other words, they aren't memorizing to learn, they are learning to understand.

Technology in the Classroom: When using technology in the classroom, we explore how to use it as a tool for learning, rather than entertainment. In the classroom, you'll see us use:

- **A television and computer:** to act as our own

 - Interactive Whiteboard, we display pictures and video clips that provoke our wonderings, and we project/reflect on our learning.

- **A tablet:** mainly for the documentation of learning. With it, we take pictures, videos, and audio recordings.

- **Our Twitter page, school website, and Remind App:** for

 - parent communication and transparency. Any photos posted will conform to the boundaries set in our consent forms.

If you have any concerns/questions about how technology is being used in the classroom, don't hesitate to reach out!